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Message Text

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46
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EB-11 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-02

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02

LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-10 SS-15 STR-08 CEA-02 L-03

H-02 TAR-02 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-12 DOTE-00 RSR-01 /158 W
---------- 026460
R 221602 Z JUN 73
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1206
INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL UNN
AMCONSUL TORONTO UNN

UNCLAS OTTAWA 1440

E. O. 11652: N/ A
TAGS: EIND, ETRD, CA, US
SUBJECT: AUTOMOTIVE AGREEMENT: REMARKS OF MINISTER GILLESPIE ON NEGOTIATIONS AND PRICES

REF: OTTAWA 1398

SUMMARY. IN HOUSE OF COMMONS JUNE 22, MINISTER OF INDUSTRY, TRADE AND COMMERCE GILLESPIE DECLARED HIS LATE MARCH MEETING WITH TREASURY SECRETARY SHULTZ PUT BILATERAL TALKS ON AUTO PACT " BACK ON RAILS" AND TALKS SHOULD RESUME " AT LEAST AT OFFICIAL LEVEL IN VERY NEAR FUTURE". GILLESPIE SAID REGARDLESS OF COMPANIES' VIEWS ON IMPACT OF CORPORATE TAX CUT, HE INTENDED TO HOLD THEM TO COMMITMENT ON FURTHER REDUCTION IN WHOLESALE PRICE GAP BETWEEN US AND CANADA. GILLESPIE, HOWEVER, SAID HE WAS NOT PREPARED TO CALL FOR ROLLBACK ON ANNOUNCED PRICE INCREASES FOR 1974 MODELS. END SUMMARY.

1. QUESTIONED BY OPPOSITION LEADER STANFIELD, GILLESPIE DECLINED FURTHER COMMENT ON GOC POSITION IN RESPECT TO TARIFF ON INDIVIDUAL IMPORTS OF CARS FROM US. STANFIELD AND HEES (ALSO PROGRESSIVE- CONSERVATIVE) SOUGHT TO PRESS GILLESPIE ON
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TIMING FOR RESUMPTION OF BILATERAL TALKS.

2. WHEN STANFIELD CITED REMARKS ATTRIBUTED TO FORD CANADA PRESIDENT THAT CORPORATE TAX CUT WOULD NOT NECESSARILY PERMIT REDUCTION IN PRICE DISPARITY, GILLESPIE TERMED REMARKS " SPECULATIVE" AND SAID GOC INTENDS TO HOLD COMPANY TO COMMITMENT ON FURTHER NARROWING OF PRICE DIFFERENTIAL IN 1974 MODEL YEAR " HOWEVER DIFFICULT IT MAY BE". GILLESPIE INDICATED HE WOULD SOON BE TALKING PRICING WITH AUTO EXECUTIVES.

3. ASKED WHETHER HE WOULD AGREE TO REFERRAL OF PACT TO PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE AS PROPOSED BY STANFIELD (OTTAWA 1398), BILLESPIE REPLIED HOUSE ALREADY HAD HAD OPPORTUNITIES TO DEBATE MATTER AND DISCUSS IT IN FINANCE COMMITTEE.
SCHMIDT

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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Disposition Authority: n/a
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Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
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